

The Worship Service
Sunday, October 11, 2026

**THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN MAYBE
COMPARED TO: A BANQUET WHERE THE
EXPECTED GUESTS ARE ABSENT; THE
MOST UNLIKELY ARE PRESENT.**

Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

610-326-3535 ~ www.shenkelucc.org ~ shenkelucc@aol.com ~

Shenkel's UCC's Vision Statement

Shenkel United Church of Christ extends a heartfelt welcome to all unbound by physical structure or geography and grounded in creative worship, active spirituality, community action, love and service.

Welcome to Shenkel United Church of Christ!

An Open and Affirming congregation since 2018

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

~Gathering Together~

Prelude "Prelude" (Cooke)

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Who can express the mighty work of the Holy One?

Many: We who gather praise the Holy One for God is good. God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: Who can proclaim the redemptive acts of the Holy One?

Many: We who gather praise the Holy One for justice and righteousness. God shows favor and mercy toward the people.

One: Who can declare the wondrous and awesome deeds of the Holy One?

Many: We who gather praise the Holy One! Praise the Holy One!

Opening Hymn "Rejoice, You Pure in Heart" (NCH#55)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy One, we acknowledge that you have modeled a way of being in the world that we struggle to adopt. You invite us to love the neighbor we do not know and the enemy that we do. You encourage us to prioritize the marginalized and center the oppressed even when our own needs overwhelm us. You invite us into your kingdom, and the cost of discipleship sometimes seems to be more than we can afford. Holy One, we need strength and hope for the journey. Let your surpassing peace enable us to pursue a worthy and pleasing life. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Grace

Siblings in Christ, the Holy One is near and responds to your prayer. Remember, "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:8-9)

Musical Moment "By Whatever Name We Call You" (Niedmann)
Lori Scharneck, piano, Susan Royer, organ

~We Hear God's Word~

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalms 23

Matthew 22:1-14

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection:

“I Would Be True”

(NCH#492)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer

Our Mother/Father, who are in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

Generosity serves as a response to the Holy One's abundant creation, trustworthy provision, and compassionate care. When we give, we accept that God has given more than enough for us to share, all have a place of belonging in God's realm, and making room affirms our commitment to God's reign. Let us give in faith, trust, gratitude, and love.

Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel's ongoing ministries.

October's Special Offering – Neighbors in Need

Offertory

“Duet”

(Handel)

Offering Response

“Doxology”

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Generous God, receive our offerings as acceptance to your invitation to the kingdom life. May they be used to spread abundance, generate hope, and meet needs. Bless us as we give to grow in generosity, gratitude, and grace. We give thanks for this opportunity to participate in your kingdom come and your will be done in our communities and world. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

“Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing”

(NCH#303)

Benediction

As you go, take the invitation with you...
To receive and give hospitality.
May you know God and be known by God.
May the table and feast of God's kindom expand
As you share the invitation of good news
In the world and for the glory of God.

Postlude

"With a Song Ringing"

(Andersen)

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com

Sexton: Stacy Keim

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth

Organist/Interim Music Director: Susan Royer

Secretary: Danielle Petersen

Announcements:

~Sunday, October 11, 2026~

Sun, 10/11 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.

~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.

~ Choir Rehearsal after Worship at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary, all are welcome.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sat, 10/17 ~ Speaker Series – Scam Alert from 10:00 – 12:00 in the Social Hall.

Sun, 10/18 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.

~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.

~ Choir Rehearsal after Worship at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary, all are welcome.

~ Church School at 11:00 am.

Please feel free to scan this code to donate through our online giving page.



Scripture Reading for October 18th

Susan Royer

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalms 99

Matthew 22:15-22

Cluster donations for October: razor blades and shaving cream

Speaker Series – Scam Alert: Join us on Saturday 10/17 from 10:00 – 12:00 in the Social Hall as we learn about knowing the signs and stopping the scams! All are welcome, bring a friend or neighbor and help us spread the word!

Tuesday Mornings: In October at 11:00 am Pastor Suzanne is offering a class from Dr. Jemar Tisby "How to Resist White Christian Nationalism". For people who already know what white christian nationalism is and still don't know what to do about it. Come learn and grow together!

Walk and Pray: In an increasingly complex and troubling world, many of us are wondering what to do. One simple act is to walk and pray for peace and wholeness in our world. You are invited to walk the Labyrinth here at Shenkel from 9 - 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Come as you are able, leave when you are ready. There's power in walking and praying together!

Carol Lykens Giving Challenge: We're receiving gifts for our Carol Lykens Fill-The-Hat Challenge! You're encouraged to make an additional contribution to the Current Fund beyond your usual giving. Contributions can be made to Shenkel UCC with "Carol Challenge" in the memo line, or donate online through our website. Thank you!

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends: being held October 21, 2026 from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm. You can go to the store or online to shop. See Louise or Tootie to get your \$5.00 shopping pass. More information to follow.

Qigong classes at Shenkel!: Classes are on Thursday mornings from 11AM-noon. Suggested cost is \$12/class or come and pay what you're able. Cash or check payable to Shenkel UCC. Hope you'll join us! No experience necessary--All are welcome! **Qigong classes will now be held upstairs in the Sanctuary.**

Grocery run? Consider using Giant and Redner's cards for your grocery store purchases: Shenkel earns \$5 for every \$100 on Giant and Redner's gift cards – which are available every week at church.

Stewardship: Stewardship Committee will meet next on November 4th at 5:30 pm. The charge of the committee is to: find ways to increase much needed revenue, attract new members, and identify new ways to provide ministry. Please contact members of the committee with your thoughts. Committee members: Chris Gray, Dan Jenkins, Kim Yocom, Julie Zachesky, and Brenda Berriker, Tom & Mo Gallant.

Church School: Children from 3 years through grade 6 are invited to participate in church school on the third Sunday of the month at 11:00 AM. Our next Church School will be on 10/18.

Shenkel Prayer Group: Meets at 10:00 am on the first Monday of the month. All are welcome to participate. Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and celebrate the Spirit of God moving among us as we pray together.

Prayer Lottery: Shenkel will be praying for:

Lilly Keim
Abigail Dise
Forrest Kreiger
Sandy Rowe

Birthdays in the month of October:

Glen Hoff	10/2/26
Joe Granger	10/5/26
Forrest Kreiger	10/5/26
Sharon Snyder	10/6/26
Adrianne Wanner	10/7/26
David Phillips	10/8/26
William Zachesky	10/10/26
Susan Stulz	10/12/26
Stacia Bradley	10/13/26
Aaron Foss	10/14/26
Danielle Petersen	10/17/26
Maureen Gallant	10/19/26
Cameron Dushanko	10/23/26
Betsy Bevan	10/28/26
Jacoby Mest	10/29/26
Aaron Gray	10/31/26

Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

- prayerfully and creatively worships God;
- unconditionally loves and accepts all;
- generously gives and serves our community and our world.

